

## How to use Police Activity Reports

"Is this neighborhood safe?" is a common question here at the Police Department. Overall, Round Rock enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in the state for a city of its size. Beyond that, the safety of a particular subdivision or apartment complex is hard to tell because it is so subjective.

Police Activity Reports provide information so you can judge for yourself. If you are thinking of moving to Round Rock, here's how to use the reports.

The reports list the calls for service according to number of calls and nature of the calls.

### Number of calls

The number of calls gives a rough idea of the monthly need for police services for an area.

**However, not every call for service is a criminal offense.** These reports include everything our officers get called out for — from assaults to false alarms to kids skipping school. As such, the number of calls for service **by itself** does not indicate the level of criminal activity. It just shows how often officers are called to the area.

Remember, too, that many factors affect the number of calls for service an area has. Larger subdivisions or apartment complexes will naturally generate more calls than smaller ones. Areas close to the interstate will have more traffic accidents than areas off the beaten path.

### Nature of calls

The nature of the call and its disposition can give a clearer picture what types of calls are coming from an area. Pay attention to the number of "report taken" dispositions on call categories that concern you. "Report taken" generally means police had enough evidence of a criminal offense to file an incident report.

"No Report" generally means the officer handled the call in such a way that no police incident report was required.

Also consider how many arrests are made in the report and what they are made for. For example, if a report shows an arrest for a runaway, you should know our Department issues Class C misdemeanor citations to confirmed runaway children when they come back home. By disposition, that's counted as an "arrest" even though it's a citation that was issued.

The serious crimes – homicide, sexual assault, assault, and so on – are included in the reports. If you don't see any of these call types in a report, then there weren't any in the area.

### List of call types

**"Police Ordinance Violation"** means a violation of city ordinances, such as excessive noise, a junked vehicle or some other violation.

**"Flag Down"** means a motorist or pedestrian flags an officer down for service.

**"Terroristic Threat"** does not imply the presence of organized terrorists. This call type refers to a threat being made against a person.

### Further tips

Go by any place in which you plan to live at different times of the day and on different days of the week. That way you can see for yourself what is going on in the area.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.